



# MISSISSIPPI'S FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

*Creating a Forest Legacy  
in your Community*

*Presentation to MUFC*

*August 20, 2015*

*Liz Barber and Jim Hancock*



# Mississippi's FLP Goal/Objectives

**Goal - to protect environmentally important forests in Mississippi threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.**

## **Objectives -**

- Sustain native or rare and unique *forest ecosystems*
- Protect *water quality*
- *Protect forests from development* along lakes and rivers and *buffer protected lands*
- Protect *wildlife habitat*
- Maintain *traditional forest uses*, including hunting and fishing
- *Sustain* productive forests
- Provide *public recreation* opportunities

**Working forests!!!**

Title XII – State and Private Forestry Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 -  
Section 1217 – Forest Legacy Program

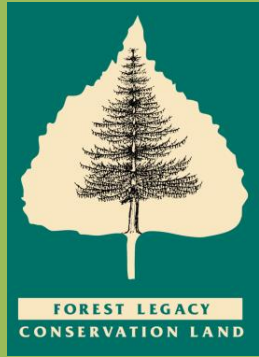
# MS FLP Assessment of Need



*The primary program document for implementing the Forest Legacy Program in Mississippi.*

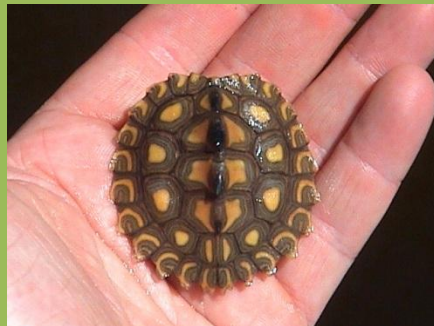
Posted on MFC website at

<http://www.mfc.ms.gov/forest-legacy.php>



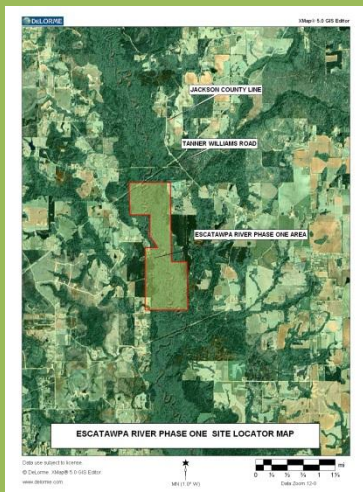
# Project Eligibility Criteria National Guidelines

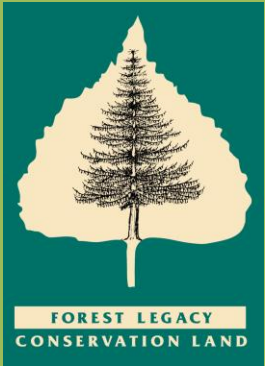
1. Importance
2. Threatened
3. Strategic
4. Project Readiness



# Mississippi Guidelines

1. Threatened
2. Willing Landowner
3. Contributes to Multiple Objectives
4. Environmental Values that can be protected and managed through easement or purchase





# Program Requirements and Use of FLP Funds

**Cost Share** – Non-federal contribution of 25% OF TOTAL PROJECT COSTS.

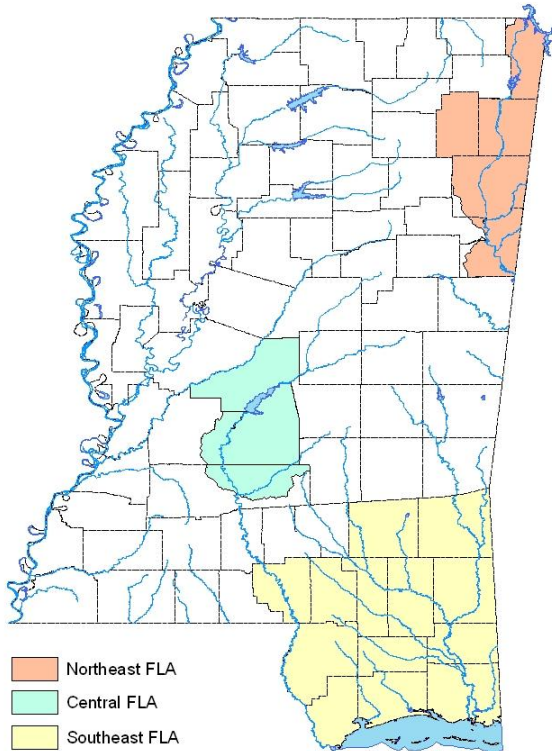
**Federal Funds** – land purchase and transaction costs, appraisals and review, land surveys, closing costs, Baseline Documentation Reports, title work, purchase of title insurance, easement drafting and other real estate transactions.

**Federal funds can be used to facilitate donations of land or interest in lands by paying expenses directly related to the donation,** including land surveys, easement drafting, title work and BDRs.

**Less than 25% of tract can be non-forested,** but must be compatible with maintaining forest cover (farmland, pasture, grassland, shrubland, open water and wetlands).

# Mississippi's Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs)

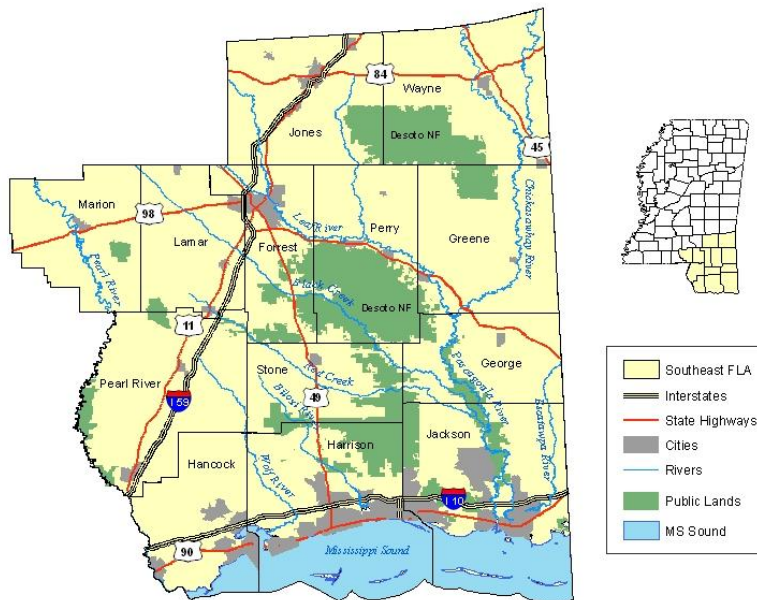
Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas



- Northeast FLA
- Central FLA
- Southeast FLA

# Southeast MS FLA

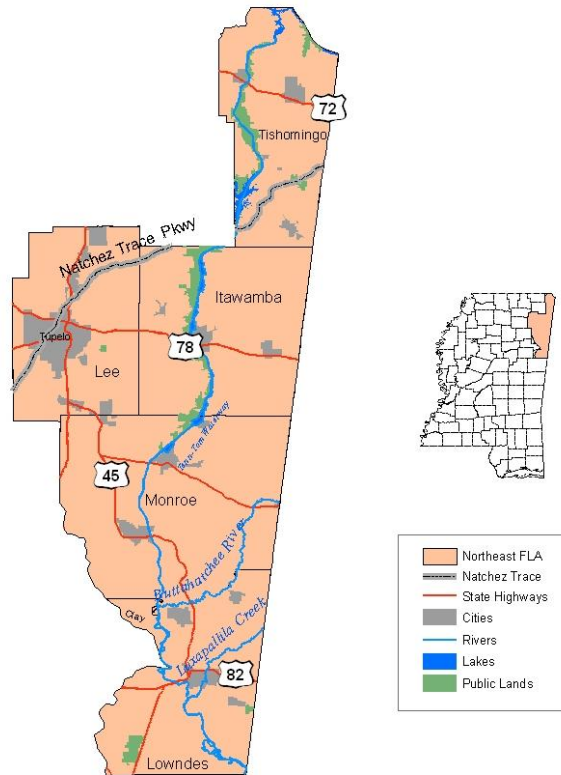
## Southeast Mississippi Forest Legacy Area



- 13 counties
- 80% forested
- Significant population growth and shift in region, exacerbated by hurricane
- Large number of species of concern
- Values – public lands, Pascagoula, Black Creek, Lower Pearl, pine savannas, maritime forests, small stream swamp forests, important bird areas, military lands

# Northeast MS FLA

## Northeast Mississippi Forest Legacy Area



- Parts of six counties
- 62% forested
- Population increase in some areas already occurring. More projected.
- Large number of species of concern.
- Values – Buttahatchie, Northeast Hills/Tennessee River Drainage, TTWW, scenic streams, riparian corridors, Natchez Trace

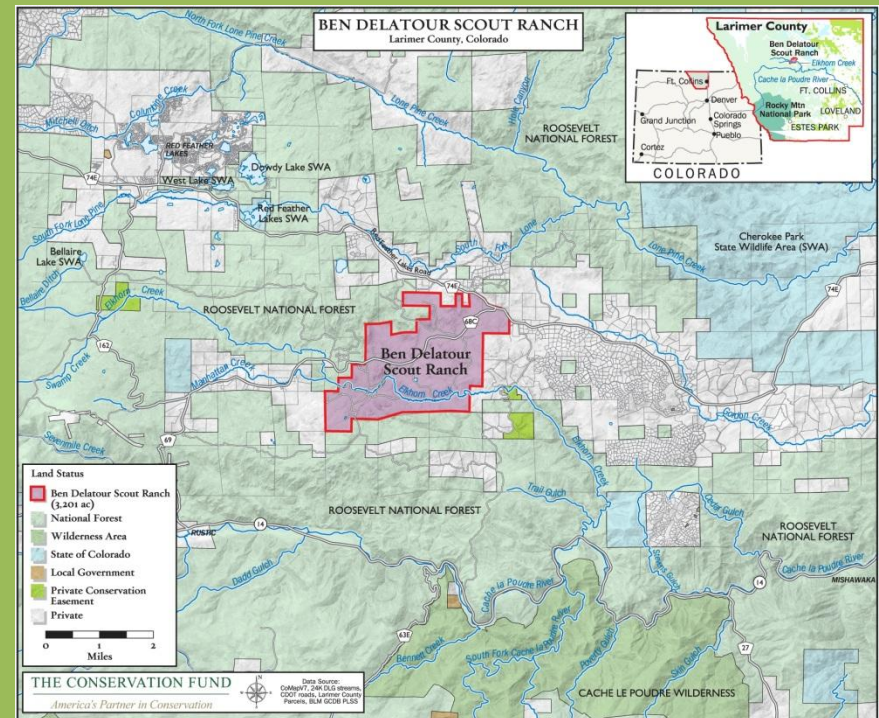
# Central MS FLA



- Parts of five counties
- 69% forested
- Population growth has already caused significant conversion, more occurring – suburban, exurban growth.
- Important to reconnect the ecological corridors.
- Values – Upper and Lower Pearl Drainage, Strong River, Ross Barnett, Big Black River, Natchez Trace Corridor

# FLP Nominations – due Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>

- Complete the application (MFC website) – [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)
- Provide supporting documentation (deeds, maps, photos)
- Partners – more is better
- 25% non-federal cost share (at least!)
- Multiple tracts within a large project area create a FLP Project (single, isolated tracts won't compete well)
- Clearly state how it meets criteria (important, threatened, strategic, ready)
- Must be in a designated Forest Legacy Area
- Working forest lands!



# MS FLP Application

2016 Mississippi Forest Legacy Program Application



## MS Forest Legacy Program 2016 Application

<http://www.mfc.ms.gov/forest-legacy.php>

Deadline August 15, 2016

See last page for address and contact information.

### BACKGROUND:

The Mississippi Forestry Commission in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service established the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program to protect privately owned forest lands with natural forest communities from being used for non-forest uses. Funding is federal money from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Program, Forest Stewardship Program (CFDA 1066.4). Participation in Mississippi's Forest Legacy Program is strictly voluntary.

The purpose of Mississippi's Forest Legacy Program is to match federal funds with local non-federal funds, to purchase development rights, conservation easements, or fee simple interest on those environmentally important forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses within designed geographic areas, known as Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas. Unless fee simple interest is purchased, these forests shall remain in private ownership. The Mississippi Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) are:

**Northeast** - Parts of 6 Counties - Clay, Itawamba, Lee, Lowndes, Monroe, Tishomingo

**Central** - Parts of 5 counties - Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson

**Southeast** - 13 counties - Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone, Wayne

Prior to completing this application, you are strongly encouraged to review the Mississippi Forest Legacy Program *Assessment of Need* (<http://www.mfc.ms.gov/forest-legacy.php>) for guidance on the program. Only tracts that are located in one of the designated Mississippi FLAs will be considered and must meet the national and state criteria and have a completed application submitted by the deadline. Note that all easements and interests in land acquired through the Forest Legacy Program are conveyed in perpetuity, and must contain such covenants and language to insure perpetuity of Forest Legacy easements. For projects to be funded in federal fiscal year 2018, the deadline for application submittal is August 15, 2016

*All submitted materials with this application become the property of the State of Mississippi and are non-returnable. Disclosure of this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide all of the requested information will substantially decrease the ability of designated persons to properly review and rank your application and property for participation in the program.*

*The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunity and services to all individuals regardless of race, age, disability, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin or political affiliation. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

Deadline for submitting application is August 15, 2016

# Photos and Maps



American Alligator, Pascagoula River



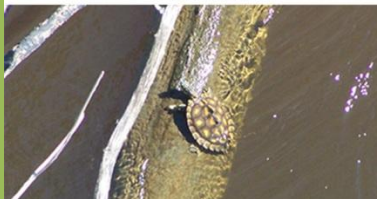
Horseshoe Lake, Oxbow on Griffith Tract  
off Pascagoula River



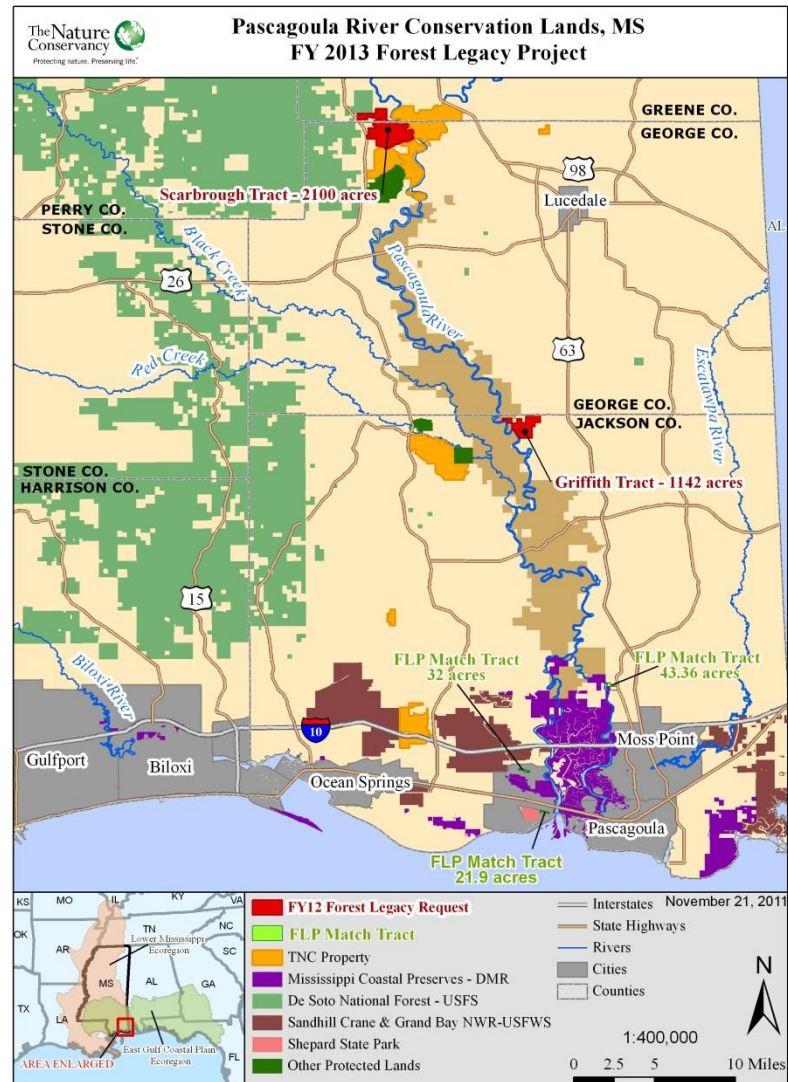
Leaf River Sandbar, Scarbrough Tract



Matthew Carter - Revolutionary War Soldier Grave,  
Griffith Tract



Yellow-blotched Sawback Turtle basking on log,  
Scarbrough Tract



## USFS Southern Region Legacy Acreage by State

		Conservation Easements	Fee Simple
Alabama			13,819
Arkansas	15,923		2,993
Florida			4,804
Georgia	7,475		25,554
Kentucky			5,979
Louisiana			182
Mississippi	568		
North Carolina	7,265		841
Oklahoma			
South Carolina	12,080		63,786
Tennessee	5,177		39,836
Texas	13,636		
Virginia	5,821		8,126

**Total CE**  
**67,945**  
**acres**

**Total Fee**  
**165,920**  
**acres**

**Total R8**  
**233,865**  
**acres**



# MS Forest Legacy Program Contacts



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**FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM**  
**Mississippi Forestry Commission**  
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